

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

OMB-01 ACDA-10 /088 W

----- 122651

R 111315Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 859

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 088

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: THREAT TO CEASEFIRE

1. NEWRY BRIGADE PROVISIONAL IRA ANNOUNCED LATE MARCH 10 BRITISH ARMY HAD BROKEN TERMS CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT BY UNAUTHORIZED SEARCH NEWRY CATHEDRAL. THEREFORE NEWRY BRIGADE FREE TO RESUME "MILITARY ACTION."

2. ARMY SEARCH CATHEDRAL FOLLOWED ESCAPE TWELVE CONVICTED IRA INMATES AT LONG KESH MAZE PRISON. CONVICTS BROKE OUT OF NEWRY COURTHOUSE AROUND NOON MARCH 10. THEY IN NEWRY FOR TRIAL CHARGES INVOLVING EARLIER ATTEMPTED ESCAPE FROM LONG KESH.

3. BY NIGHTFALL ONLY TWO OF ESCAPEES RECAPTURED. ARMY CLAIMS IT SEARCHED CATHEDRAL AFTER RECEIPT CERTAIN INFORMATION. CATHEDRAL ADMINISTRATOR STATED ARMY DID NOT RPT NOT INFORM CHURCH AUTHORITIES IN ADVANCE OF SEARCH INTENTIONS BUT WHEN CHURCH PERSONNEL HEARD SEARCH WAS IN PROGRESS THEY APPROVED CONTINUATION. PROVISIONAL IRA NEWRY STATED SEARCH VIOLATED AGREEMENT THAT ARMY NOT RPT NOT TO SEARCH HOUSES OR OTHER PREMISES. OBVIOUSLY DESPITE CEASEFIRE NEWRY IRA WOULD LIKE
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SEE CONVICTS COMPLETE ESCAPE BID.

4. OFFICIAL INCIDENT CENTER FUNCTIONED AND PROVISIONAL SINN
FEIN ATTEMPTING SOOTHE SITUATION. SPOKESMAN HAS GIVEN
OPINION NEWRY BRIGADE CANNOT END CEASEFIRE WITHOUT APPROVAL
IRA COMMAND DUBLIN. HOWEVER NEWRY PROVISIONAL IRA TRADITIONALLY
RESISTANT TO DISCIPLINE FROM OUTSIDE AND LATEST DEVELOPMENT
SEEN AS GREATEST THREAT SO FAR TO CURRENT CEASEFIRE.

SPICER

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